

Two New Parks Coming to Carmel Valley
Council President Scott Peters, First District
For the Carmel Valley News, February 2007

Neighborhood parks rank among the most important and most heavily-used services provided by the City of San Diego. Building, improving and maintaining the nine public parks in Carmel Valley continues to top my list of priorities for this community.

During the six years I've represented the First District, it has been my pleasure to open three new parks in Carmel Valley: Carmel Knolls, Sage Canyon, and Ashley Falls. By the time my term ends, we'll open one more neighborhood park and a new skate facility.

Ocean Air Park: On January 23, the City Council gave final approval for a new 15-acre joint-use park next to Ocean Air Elementary School. Much like Sage Canyon Park, the fields at Ocean Air will serve students during regular school hours and operate as a standard community park during non-school hours.

In addition to five acres of multi-use fields, the park will feature children's play areas, picnic facilities, a recreation building housing multi-use courts and a restroom facility. Construction will begin this year, with the fields projected to be complete by the beginning of the 2008 school year.

Joint-use parks are a great way to maximize the utility of precious open space within an urban area. I am proud of the successful partnership between the City of San Diego and the school districts in Carmel Valley.

Carmel Valley Skate Facility: In 2005, we celebrated the completion of a skate park serving Rancho Peñasquitos. While some members of the community expressed concerns about the project when it was proposed, the park has been an overwhelming success, offering young people a safe place to hang out and exercise.

I was so pleased with the outcome of that project, I wanted to replicate it in Carmel Valley. In 2005, I began a series of conversations to change the Carmel Valley Community Plan to include a skate facility. Since that time, we've approved a site next to the new Northwestern Police Substation, and the committee that oversees developer impact fees has agreed to set aside more than \$300,000 in funding for the initial designs.

Last month we began a series of design workshops to solicit input from community members and avid skateboarders. Thirty skaters of all ages and levels of experience joined community members and experts from two design companies to discuss the kind of skate elements participants would most like to see. The consultants will present those ideas to the community planning board at an upcoming workshop.

Once design plans are complete, the project will be heard by the Carmel Valley Community Planning Board and will ultimately go before the City Council for final approval. While this project is currently scheduled to be complete in Fall of 2009, it is

my goal to have the skate facility open and operating by mid-2008. Funding for this project comes from developer fees collected in Carmel Valley.

I encourage you to attend the next design workshop on Tuesday, February 13 at 6:00 p.m. at the Carmel Valley Library, 3919 Townsgate Drive. You can also visit the skate park website, www.carmelvalleyskatepark.com.